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University of Montana

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MEDIA RELEASE

October 13, 1986

UNIQUE GIFT ESTABLISHED FOR UM'S MAUREEN AND MIKE MANSFIELD LIBRARY

MISSOULA --

A unique gift was established for the University of Montana's Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library this year when Marion McGill Smith, a 1938 UM alumna, took out a life insurance policy on herself that is expected to bring the library the equivalent of \$5,000 a year to buy reference materials.

McGill Smith, who earned her bachelor's degree at UM and conducted graduate work at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., was director of the Jackson Library at Stanford Business School for 21 years until her retirement in 1979. During her tenure at Stanford, the collection grew from 24,000 to 250,000 volumes, the budget increased from \$39,000 to \$500,000, and library endowment rose from \$140,000 to \$750,000. In 1972, McGill Smith received a Women of Achievement award from the International Biographical Directory, recognizing her professional contributions.

Asked about her gift to the Mansfield Library, McGill Smith said, "I thought the university was very good to me. At the time I went to school, I worked my way through--for 25 cents an hour, can you believe that?--but I had help from so many individuals who were good to me. And I felt the University needed this. It's my expression of appreciation."

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The gift, formally called the Marion McGill Smith Class of 1938 General Reference Collection, will be "a significant contribution to the research and academic pursuits of all faculty and students here at the university," says Ruth Patrick, UM's dean of library services. The gift is designed to provide reference materials in all fields of research and interest.

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